

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A method for altering fiber development or properties of a fiber-producing plant comprising the step of providing cells of said plants a plant with a chimeric gene comprising the following operably linked DNA fragments:

a plant expressible promoter;

a the coding region from a which when transcribed yields an RNA said RNA being capable of reducing the expression of an endogenous sucrose synthase gene, preferably an endogenous sucrose synthase gene expressed in fiber cells, preferably fiber initial cells; or capable of being translated into an active plant sucrose synthase gene protein; and

a transcription termination and polyadenylation signal which functions in said plant cells.

Claim 2. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said RNA is capable of being translated into an active plant sucrose synthase protein gene is at least 95% homologous to a DNA selected from the group consisting of the DNA of SEQ ID NO: 1 and DNA with GenBank accession number BM094593 (*Glycine max*); BM093753 (*Glycine max*); BM093158 (*Glycine max*); BM092695 (*Glycine max*); BM092443 (*Glycine max*); BM092322 (*Glycine max*); BM085310 (*Glycine max*); BM085020 (*Glycine max*); AY059416 (*Zea mays*); AF273253 (*Beta vulgaris*);

L39940 (*Oryza sativa*); AJ316590 (*Nostoc punctiforme*); AJ316589 (*Nostoc punctiforme*); AJ316596 (*Anabaena sp.*); AJ316595(*Anabaena sp.*); AJ316584 (*Anabaena sp.*); BM005654 (*Crocus sativus*); BI973032 (*Glycine max*); BI971794 (*Glycine max*); AF367450 (*Prunus persica*); BI945506 (*Glycine max*); BI944973 (*Glycine max*); AF420224 (*Carica papaya*); BI788449 (*Glycine max*); BI788359 (*Glycine max*); BI787127 (*Glycine max*); BI787033(*Glycine max*); BI787000 (*Glycine max*); BI786823(*Glycine max*); BI784933 (*Glycine max*); BI784627 (*Glycine max*); BI700214 (*Glycine max*); BI699934 (*Glycine max*); BI699923 (*Glycine max*); BI699585(*Glycine max*); BI543240 (Sugar beet); BI498340 (*Glycine max*); BI471463 (*Glycine max*); BI427241(*Glycine max*); BI427174 (*Glycine max*); BI427022 (*Glycine max*); BI426915 (*Glycine max*); AF393809 (*Apium graveolens*); BI321173 (*Glycine max*); BI320832 (*Glycine max*); BI316894 (*Glycine max*); BI316826 (*Glycine max*); BI316405 (*Glycine max*); BI315949 (*Glycine max*); BI203222 (*Lycopersicon esculentum*); BI176503 (*Solanum tuberosum*); BG273882 (Grape berries); AY034958 (*Arabidopsis thaliana*); AF378187(*Oryza sativa*); BG790580 (*Glycine max*); BG790079 (*Glycine max*); BG726150 (*Glycine max*); BG654021 (*Glycine max*); BG653916 (*Glycine max*); BG653624 (*Glycine max*); BG652711(*Glycine max*); BG652507 (*Glycine max*); BG649914 (*Glycine max*); BG649831 (*Glycine max*); AJ309093 (*Pinus pinaster*); BG507656 (*Glycine max*); BG405632 (*Glycine max*); BG405474 (*Glycine max*); BG405204 (*Glycine max*); BG405017 (*Glycine max*); BG363730 (*Glycine max*); BG362638 (*Glycine max*); BG359764 (*Glycine max*); BG359452 (*Glycine max*); BG359307 (*Glycine max*); AJ311496 (*Pisum sativum*); BG239317 (*Glycine max*); BG237287 (*Glycine max*); BG157592 (*Glycine max*); BG155900 (*Glycine max*); BG047402 (*Glycine max*); BG046717 (*Glycine max*);

BG046686 (Glycine max); BG046043 (Glycine max); BG043243 (Glycine max);
BG042159 (Glycine max); BG041814 (Glycine max); AB045710 (Pyrus pyrifolia);
BF597682 (Glycine max); BF597330 (Glycine max); BF597258 (Glycine max);
BF595837 (Glycine max); BF595646 (Glycine max); BF425609 (Glycine max);
BF423725 (Glycine max); BF324657 (Glycine max); BF154308 (Solanum
tuberosum); BF154187 (Solanum tuberosum); BF154037 (Solanum tuberosum);
BF153500 (Solanum tuberosum); BF153341 (Solanum tuberosum); BF153335
(Solanum tuberosum); BF153307 (Solanum tuberosum); BF097021 (Lycopersicon
esculentum); BF070782 (Glycine max); BF070666 (Glycine max); BF070277
(Glycine max); BF070188 (Glycine max); BF068815 (Glycine max); BF071174
(Glycine max); BF067110 (Glycine max); BF009756 (Glycine max); BE806119
(Glycine max); BE805996 (Glycine max); BE805178 (Glycine max); BE800976
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(Glycine max); BE609887(Glycine max); BE609881 (Glycine max); BE607382
(Oryza sativa); BE607326 (Oryza sativa); BE607323 (Oryza sativa); BE556484
(Glycine max); BE556306 (Glycine max); BE555319 (Glycine max); AJ001117
(Triticum aestivum); AJ292758 (Anabaena variabilis); BE474178 (Glycine max);
BE440931 (Glycine max); BE440323 (Glycine max); BE347277 (Glycine max);
AF263384 (Saccharum officinarum); BE330345 (Glycine max); BE211050 (Glycine
max); BE209707 (Glycine max); AW561929 (Gossypium hirsutum); BE040389
(Oryza sativa); BE040121 (Oryza sativa); BE039563 (Arabidopsis thaliana);
BE034387 (Mesembryanthemum crystallinum); BE033387 (Mesembryanthemum
crystallinum); BE023957 (Glycine max); BE023630 (Glycine max); BE022760

(Glycine max); BE021167 (Glycine max); BE020760 (Glycine max); BE020591
(Glycine max); BE020550 (Glycine max); AW990923 (Euphorbia esula); AW832022
(Glycine max); AW760552 (Glycine max); AW756812 (Glycine max); AW756072
(Glycine max); AW756065 (Glycine max); AW734901 (Glycine max); AW707163
(Glycine max); AW706660 (Glycine max); AW706520 (Glycine max); AW706203
(Glycine max); AW705595 (Glycine max); AW704619 (Glycine max); AB025778
(Citrus unshiu); AB021745 (Citrus unshiu); AW666333 (Glycine max); AW666277
(Glycine max); AW666250 (Glycine max); AW620859 (Glycine max); AW598476
(Glycine max); AW598473 (Glycine max); AW597690 (Glycine max); AW597373
(Glycine max); AW597332 (Glycine max); AW596993 (Glycine max); AW570615
(Glycine max); AW570577 (Glycine max); AW570566 (Glycine max); AW570513
(Glycine max); AW569822 (Glycine max); AW568526 (Glycine max); AW568333
(Glycine max); AW509231 (Glycine max); AW472408 (Glycine max); AW459606
(Glycine max); AW458318 (Glycine max); X82504 (C. rubrum); AW432731 (Glycine
max); AW432392 (Glycine max); AW432192 (Glycine max); AW397142 (Glycine
max); AW397071 (Glycine max); AW309503 (Glycine max); AW307502 (Glycine
max); AW307391 (Glycine max); AW307001 (Glycine max); AW306834 (Glycine
max); AB018561 (Citrullus lanatus); AB029401 (Citrus unshiu); AB022092 (Citrus
unshiu); AB022091 (Citrus unshiu); AW279073 (Glycine max); AW279053 (Glycine
max); AW278487 (Glycine max); AJ388994 (Medicago truncatula); AJ388888
(Medicago truncatula); AW234887 (Glycine max); AJ238219 (Triticum aestivum);
AJ238218 (Triticum aestivum); AJ238217 (Triticum speltoides); AW201670 (Glycine
max); AW185801 (Glycine max); AW185627 (Glycine max); AJ249624 (Triticum
aestivum); AJ249623 (Triticum aestivum); AW164630 (Glycine max); AW164393

(Glycine max); AW133248 (Glycine max); AW101578 (Glycine max); AW100191
(Glycine max); AW100069 (Glycine max); AW099557 (Glycine max); X96938 (T.
gesneriana); X96939 (T. gesneriana); AW035186 (Lycopersicon esculentum);
AW033439 (Lycopersicon esculentum); AW032339 (Lycopersicon esculentum);
AJ132002 (Craterostigma plantagineum); AJ132001 (Craterostigma plantagineum);
AJ132000 (Craterostigma plantagineum); AJ131999 (Craterostigma plantagineum);
AI973811 (Glycine max); AI973710 (Glycine max); AI973540 (Glycine max);
AI967739 (Lotus japonicus); AI965972 (Glycine max); AI960742 (Glycine max);
AI960703 (Glycine max); AI930917 (Glycine max); AI900130 (Glycine max);
AI900087 (Glycine max); AI855470 (Glycine max); AA080634 (Saccharum sp.);
AA080610 (Saccharum sp.); AA269294 (Saccharum sp.); AA080580 (Saccharum
sp.); AI736370 (Glycine max); AI731292 (Gossypium hirsutum); AI731115
(Gossypium hirsutum); AI729201 (Gossypium hirsutum); AI728436 (Gossypium
hirsutum); AI727966 (Gossypium hirsutum); AI726092 (Gossypium hirsutum);
U73588 (Gossypium hirsutum); U73587 (Gossypium hirsutum); AJ012080 (Pisum
sativum); AJ131964 (Medicago truncatula); AJ131943 (Medicago truncatula);
AJ133726 (Lotus japonicus); Y16091 (Daucus carota); Y16090 (Daucus carota);
AJ011319 (Lycopersicon esculentum); AI496671 (Glycine max); AI496540 (Glycine
max); AI496532 (Glycine max); AI495774 (Glycine max); AI495135 (Glycine max);
AI495023 (Glycine max); AI494833 (Glycine max); AJ011534 (Lycopersicon
esculentum); Y15802 (Hordeum vulgare); AI461126 (Glycine max); AI460757
(Glycine max); AI460629 (Glycine max); AI444096 (Glycine max); AI444083 (Glycine
max); AI444054 (Glycine max); AI443620 (Glycine max); AI443476 (Glycine max);
AI443231 (Glycine max); AI442789 (Glycine max); AI442411 (Glycine max);

AI441989 (*Glycine max*); AI441004 (*Glycine max*); AI437923 (*Glycine max*);
AI437907 (*Glycine max*); AI437840 (*Glycine max*); AJ010639 (*Anabaena sp.*);
AJ011535 (*Lycopersicon esculentum*); D10266 (*Vigna radiata*); L03366 (*Oryza*
sativa); AF030231 (*Glycine max*); M97551 (*Vicia faba*); AJ000153 (*Triticum*
aestivum); AF079523 (*Musa acuminata*); AF079851 (*Pisum sativum*); AJ001071
(*Pisum sativum*); AF049487 (*Medicago sativa*); AF054446 (*Mesembryanthemum*
crystallinum); AA753339 (*Oryza sativa*); AA752298 (*Oryza sativa*); AA752293 (*Oryza*
sativa); AA753445 (*Oryza sativa*); AA753437 (*Oryza sativa*); AA753297 (*Oryza*
sativa); AA752123 (*Oryza sativa*); AA751990 (*Oryza sativa*); AA750692 (*Oryza*
sativa); AA750079 (*Oryza sativa*); AA749692 (*Oryza sativa*); AA749554 (*Oryza*
sativa); AA720478 (*Mesembryanthemum crystallinum*); AA661050 (*Medicago*
truncatula); AA661041 (*Medicago truncatula*); AA660686 (*Medicago truncatula*);
D88412 (*Cotton*); D10418 (*Rice*); D21308 (*Rice*); D29733 (*Rice*); X81974 (*B.*
vulgaris); X92378 (*A. glutinosa*); Z56278 (*V. faba*); Z48640 (*V. faba*); X98598 (*P.*
sativum); T25261 (*Zea mays*); T23326 (*Zea mays*); T14713 (*Zea mays*); T14662
(*Zea mays*); T14661 (*Zea mays*); X75332 (*D. carota*); X02382 (*Zea mays*); X02400
(*Zea mays*); X70990 (*A. thaliana*); X60987 (*A. thaliana*); X69773 (*V. faba*); X73477
(*S. tuberosum*); Z11532 (*S. officinarum*); Z15028 (*O. sativa*); X64770 (*O. sativa*);
X59046 (*O. sativa*); X66728 (*H. vulgare*); X65871 (*H. vulgare*); X69931 (*H. vulgare*);
A27685 (*O. sativa*); W21612 (*Zea mays*); U24088 (*Solanum tuberosum*); U24087
(*Solanum tuberosum*); X73221 (*H. vulgare*); L32898 (*Zea mays*); F13913
(*Arabidopsis thaliana*); F13912 (*Arabidopsis thaliana*); U21129 (*Solanum*
tuberosum); M26672 (*Triticum aestivum*); M26671 (*Triticum aestivum*); L19762

(Lycopersicon esculentum); M18745 (Potato); L33244 (Zea mays); L22296 (Zea mays); and Z17959 (Arabidopsis thaliana).

Claim 3. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 2 1, wherein said sucrose synthase gene ~~coding region~~ comprises a nucleotide sequence selected from

~~—— a) —— a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO 2;~~

~~—— b) —— a nucleotide sequence comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID No 1;~~

~~—— c) —— a nucleotide sequence having at least 70% sequence identity with the nucleotide sequence a) or b);~~

~~—— d) —— a nucleotide sequence hybridizing under stringent conditions with the nucleotide sequence a) or b);~~

~~or a part thereof encoding an active sucrose synthase.~~

Claim 4. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 1, wherein said RNA is capable of reducing the expression of an endogenous sucrose synthase gene.

Claim 5. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 4, wherein said coding region comprises a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of

a nucleotide sequence comprising at least 19 or 25 contiguous nucleotides having at least 70% sequence identity to a nucleotide sequence encoding a

polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO 2 or the complement thereof; and

a nucleotide sequence comprising at least 25 contiguous nucleotides having at least 70% sequence identity to a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID No 1 or the complement thereof.

Claim 6. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 5, wherein said coding region comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID No 1 from the nucleotide at position 2208 to the nucleotide at position 2598 or the complement thereof.

Claim 7. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 5, wherein said coding region comprises both sense and antisense nucleotide sequences capable of forming a double stranded RNA molecule.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) The method according to any one of claims 1, 2, or 3 ~~4 to 7~~, wherein said promoter is a subterranean clover stunt virus promoter.

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) The method according to any one of claims 1, 2, or 3 ~~4 to 7~~, wherein said fiber-producing plant is a cotton plant.

Claim 10. (Original) The method according to claim 8, wherein said fiber-producing plant is a cotton plant.

Claim 11. (Deleted)

Claim 12. (Currently amended) A method for improving fiber yield in a fiber-producing plant, comprising providing cells of said plant with a chimeric gene comprising the following operably linked DNA fragments

a plant expressible promoter;

a the coding region from a ~~DNA region capable of being translated into an active~~ a sucrose synthase gene ~~protein~~; and

a transcription termination and polyadenylation signal which functions in said plant cells.

Claim 13. (Currently amended) A method for improving fiber quality in a fiber-producing plant, comprising providing cells of said plant with a chimeric gene comprising the following operably linked DNA fragments

a plant expressible promoter;

a the coding region from ~~DNA region capable of being translated into an active~~ a sucrose synthase gene ~~protein~~; and

a transcription termination and polyadenylation signal which functions in said plant cells.

Claim 14. (Currently amended) A method for increasing seed size in a fiber-producing plant, comprising providing cells of said plant with a chimeric gene comprising the following operably linked DNA fragments:

a seed-specific promoter;

a the coding region from a ~~DNA region capable of being translated into an~~
active sucrose synthase gene ~~protein~~; and

a transcription termination and polyadenylation signal which functions in said
plant cells.

Claim 15. (Currently Amended) A fiber-producing plant comprising in its genome a
chimeric DNA comprising the following operably linked DNA fragments:

a plant expressible promoter;

a the coding region from a ~~which when transcribed yields an RNA said RNA~~
being

~~capable of reducing the expression of an endogenous sucrose~~
~~synthase gene, preferably an endogenous sucrose synthase gene expressed in fiber~~
~~cells, preferably fiber initial cells; or~~

~~capable of being translated into an active sucrose synthase~~ gene
~~protein~~; and

a transcription termination and polyadenylation signal which functions in said
plant cells.

Claim 16. (Currently amended) A fiber-producing plant according to claim 15,
wherein said ~~RNA is capable of increasing the expression of an endogenous~~ sucrose
~~synthase gene, preferably an endogenous sucrose synthase gene expressed in fiber~~
~~cells, preferably fiber initial cells and said fiber cells have an increased sucrose~~
~~synthase activity compared to fiber cells of plant cells which do not comprise said~~
~~chimeric DNA~~ is at least 95% homologous to a DNA selected from the group

consisting of the DNA of SEQ ID NO: 1; DNA with GenBank accession number
BM094593 (*Glycine max*); BM093753 (*Glycine max*); BM093158 (*Glycine max*);
BM092695 (*Glycine max*); BM092443 (*Glycine max*); BM092322 (*Glycine max*);
BM085310 (*Glycine max*); BM085020 (*Glycine max*); AY059416 (*Zea mays*);
AF273253 (*Beta vulgaris*); L39940 (*Oryza sativa*); AJ316590 (*Nostoc punctiforme*);
AJ316589 (*Nostoc punctiforme*); AJ316596 (*Anabaena* sp.); AJ316595(*Anabaena*
sp.); AJ316584 (*Anabaena* sp.); BM005654 (*Crocus sativus*); BI973032 (*Glycine*
max); BI971794 (*Glycine max*); AF367450 (*Prunus persica*); BI945506 (*Glycine*
max); BI944973 (*Glycine max*); AF420224 (*Carica papaya*); BI788449 (*Glycine*
max); BI788359 (*Glycine max*); BI787127 (*Glycine max*); BI787033(*Glycine max*);
BI787000 (*Glycine max*); BI786823(*Glycine max*); BI784933 (*Glycine max*);
BI784627 (*Glycine max*); BI700214 (*Glycine max*); BI699934 (*Glycine max*);
BI699923 (*Glycine max*); BI699585(*Glycine max*); BI543240 (Sugar beet); BI498340
(*Glycine max*); BI471463 (*Glycine max*); BI427241(*Glycine max*); BI427174 (*Glycine*
max); BI427022 (*Glycine max*); BI426915 (*Glycine max*); AF393809 (*Apium*
graveolens); BI321173 (*Glycine max*); BI320832 (*Glycine max*); BI316894 (*Glycine*
max); BI316826 (*Glycine max*); BI316405 (*Glycine max*); BI315949 (*Glycine max*);
BI203222 (*Lycopersicon esculentum*); BI176503 (*Solanum tuberosum*); BG273882
(Grape berries); AY034958 (*Arabidopsis thaliana*); AF378187(*Oryza sativa*);
BG790580 (*Glycine max*); BG790079 (*Glycine max*); BG726150 (*Glycine max*);
BG654021 (*Glycine max*); BG653916 (*Glycine max*); BG653624 (*Glycine max*);
BG652711(*Glycine max*); BG652507 (*Glycine max*); BG649914 (*Glycine max*);
BG649831 (*Glycine max*); AJ309093 (*Pinus pinaster*); BG507656 (*Glycine max*);
BG405632 (*Glycine max*); BG405474 (*Glycine max*); BG405204 (*Glycine max*);

BG405017 (Glycine max); BG363730 (Glycine max); BG362638 (Glycine max);
BG359764 (Glycine max); BG359452 (Glycine max); BG359307 (Glycine max);
AJ311496 (Pisum sativum); BG239317 (Glycine max); BG237287 (Glycine max);
BG157592 (Glycine max); BG155900 (Glycine max); BG047402 (Glycine max);
BG046717 (Glycine max); BG046686 (Glycine max); BG046043 (Glycine max);
BG043243 (Glycine max); BG042159 (Glycine max); BG041814 (Glycine max);
AB045710 (Pyrus pyrifolia); BF597682 (Glycine max); BF597330 (Glycine max);
BF597258 (Glycine max); BF595837 (Glycine max); BF595646 (Glycine max);
BF425609 (Glycine max); BF423725 (Glycine max); BF324657 (Glycine max);
BF154308 (Solanum tuberosum); BF154187 (Solanum tuberosum); BF154037
(Solanum tuberosum); BF153500 (Solanum tuberosum); BF153341 (Solanum
tuberosum); BF153335 (Solanum tuberosum); BF153307 (Solanum tuberosum);
BF097021 (Lycopersicon esculentum); BF070782 (Glycine max); BF070666 (Glycine
max); BF070277 (Glycine max); BF070188 (Glycine max); BF068815 (Glycine max);
BF071174 (Glycine max); BF067110 (Glycine max); BF009756 (Glycine max);
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BE611805 (Glycine max); BE611493 (Glycine max); BE610447 (Glycine max);
BE610325 (Glycine max); BE609887(Glycine max); BE609881 (Glycine max);
BE607382 (Oryza sativa); BE607326 (Oryza sativa); BE607323 (Oryza sativa);
BE556484 (Glycine max); BE556306 (Glycine max); BE555319 (Glycine max);
AJ001117 (Triticum aestivum); AJ292758 (Anabaena variabilis); BE474178 (Glycine
max); BE440931 (Glycine max); BE440323 (Glycine max); BE347277 (Glycine max);
AF263384 (Saccharum officinarum); BE330345 (Glycine max); BE211050 (Glycine

max); BE209707 (Glycine max); AW561929 (Gossypium hirsutum); BE040389
(Oryza sativa); BE040121 (Oryza sativa); BE039563 (Arabidopsis thaliana);
BE034387 (Mesembryanthemum crystallinum); BE033387 (Mesembryanthemum
crystallinum); BE023957 (Glycine max); BE023630 (Glycine max); BE022760
(Glycine max); BE021167 (Glycine max); BE020760 (Glycine max); BE020591
(Glycine max); BE020550 (Glycine max); AW990923 (Euphorbia esula); AW832022
(Glycine max); AW760552 (Glycine max); AW756812 (Glycine max); AW756072
(Glycine max); AW756065 (Glycine max); AW734901 (Glycine max); AW707163
(Glycine max); AW706660 (Glycine max); AW706520 (Glycine max); AW706203
(Glycine max); AW705595 (Glycine max); AW704619 (Glycine max); AB025778
(Citrus unshiu); AB021745 (Citrus unshiu); AW666333 (Glycine max); AW666277
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(Glycine max); AW458318 (Glycine max); X82504 (C. rubrum); AW432731 (Glycine
max); AW432392 (Glycine max); AW432192 (Glycine max); AW397142 (Glycine
max); AW397071 (Glycine max); AW309503 (Glycine max); AW307502 (Glycine
max); AW307391 (Glycine max); AW307001 (Glycine max); AW306834 (Glycine
max); AB018561 (Citrullus lanatus); AB029401 (Citrus unshiu); AB022092 (Citrus
unshiu); AB022091 (Citrus unshiu); AW279073 (Glycine max); AW279053 (Glycine
max); AW278487 (Glycine max); AJ388994 (Medicago truncatula); AJ388888

(Medicago truncatula); AW234887 (Glycine max); AJ238219 (Triticum aestivum);
AJ238218 (Triticum aestivum); AJ238217 (Triticum speltoides); AW201670 (Glycine
max); AW185801(Glycine max); AW185627 (Glycine max); AJ249624 (Triticum
aestivum); AJ249623 (Triticum aestivum); AW164630 (Glycine max); AW164393
(Glycine max); AW133248 (Glycine max); AW101578 (Glycine max); AW100191
(Glycine max); AW100069 (Glycine max); AW099557 (Glycine max); X96938 (T.
gesneriana); X96939 (T. gesneriana); AW035186 (Lycopersicon esculentum);
AW033439 (Lycopersicon esculentum); AW032339 (Lycopersicon esculentum);
AJ132002 (Craterostigma plantagineum); AJ132001 (Craterostigma plantagineum);
AJ132000 (Craterostigma plantagineum); AJ131999 (Craterostigma plantagineum);
AI973811 (Glycine max); AI973710 (Glycine max); AI973540 (Glycine max);
AI967739 (Lotus japonicus); AI965972 (Glycine max); AI960742 (Glycine max);
AI960703 (Glycine max); AI930917 (Glycine max); AI900130 (Glycine max);
AI900087 (Glycine max); AI855470 (Glycine max); AA080634 (Saccharum sp.);
AA080610 (Saccharum sp.); AA269294 (Saccharum sp.); AA080580 (Saccharum
sp.); AI736370 (Glycine max); AI731292 (Gossypium hirsutum); AI731115
(Gossypium hirsutum); AI729201 (Gossypium hirsutum); AI728436 (Gossypium
hirsutum); AI727966 (Gossypium hirsutum); AI726092 (Gossypium hirsutum);
U73588 (Gossypium hirsutum); U73587 (Gossypium hirsutum); AJ012080 (Pisum
sativum); AJ131964 (Medicago truncatula); AJ131943 (Medicago truncatula);
AJ133726 (Lotus japonicus); Y16091 (Daucus carota); Y16090 (Daucus carota);
AJ011319 (Lycopersicon esculentum); AI496671 (Glycine max); AI496540 (Glycine
max); AI496532 (Glycine max); AI495774 (Glycine max); AI495135 (Glycine max);
AI495023 (Glycine max); AI494833 (Glycine max); AJ011534 (Lycopersicon

esculentum); Y15802 (Hordeum vulgare); AI461126(Glycine max); AI460757
(Glycine max); AI460629 (Glycine max); AI444096 (Glycine max); AI444083 (Glycine
max); AI444054 (Glycine max); AI443620 (Glycine max); AI443476 (Glycine max);
AI443231 (Glycine max); AI442789 (Glycine max); AI442411 (Glycine max);
AI441989 (Glycine max); AI441004 (Glycine max); AI437923 (Glycine max);
AI437907 (Glycine max); AI437840 (Glycine max); AJ010639 (Anabaena sp.);
AJ011535 (Lycopersicon esculentum); D10266 (Vigna radiata); L03366 (Oryza
sativa); AF030231 (Glycine max); M97551 (Vicia faba); AJ000153 (Triticum
aestivum); AF079523 (Musa acuminata); AF079851 (Pisum sativum); AJ001071
(Pisum sativum); AF049487 (Medicago sativa); AF054446 (Mesembryanthemum
crystallinum); AA753339 (Oryza sativa); AA752298 (Oryza sativa); AA752293 (Oryza
sativa); AA753445 (Oryza sativa); AA753437 (Oryza sativa); AA753297 (Oryza
sativa); AA752123 (Oryza sativa); AA751990 (Oryza sativa); AA750692 (Oryza
sativa); AA750079 (Oryza sativa);AA749692 (Oryza sativa); AA749554 (Oryza
sativa); AA720478 (Mesembryanthemum crystallinum); AA661050 (Medicago
truncatula); AA661041 (Medicago truncatula); AA660686 (Medicago truncatula);
D88412 (Cotton); D10418 (Rice); D21308 (Rice); D29733 (Rice); X81974 (B.
vulgaris); X92378 (A. glutinosa); Z56278 (V. faba); Z48640 (V. faba); X98598 (P.
sativum); T25261 (Zea mays); T23326 (Zea mays); T14713 (Zea mays); T14662
(Zea mays); T14661 (Zea mays); X75332 (D. carota); X02382 (Zea mays); X02400
(Zea mays); X70990 (A. thaliana); X60987 (A. thaliana); X69773 (V. faba); X73477
(S. tuberosum); Z11532 (S. officinarum); Z15028 (O. sativa); X64770 (O. sativa);
X59046 (O. sativa); X66728 (H. vulgare); X65871 (H. vulgare); X69931(H. vulgare);
A27685 (O. sativa); W21612 (Zea mays); U24088 (Solanum tuberosum); U24087

(Solanum tuberosum); X73221 (H. vulgare); L32898 (Zea mays); F13913
(Arabidopsis thaliana); F13912 (Arabidopsis thaliana); U21129 (Solanum
tuberosum); M26672 (Triticum aestivum); M26671 (Triticum aestivum); L19762
(Lycopersicon esculentum); M18745 (Potato); L33244 (Zea mays); L22296 (Zea
mays); and Z17959 (Arabidopsis thaliana).

Claim 17. (Currently amended) The fiber-producing plant according to claim 15-16, wherein said sucrose synthase gene coding region comprises a nucleotide sequence selected from

- ~~—— a) —— a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID No 2;~~
 - ~~—— b) —— a nucleotide sequence comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID No 1;~~
 - ~~—— c) —— a nucleotide sequence having at least 70% sequence identity with the nucleotide sequence a) or b);~~
 - ~~—— d) —— a nucleotide sequence hybridizing under stringent conditions with the nucleotide sequence a) or b);~~
- ~~or a part thereof encoding an active sucrose synthase.~~

Claim 18. (Withdrawn) A fiber-producing plant according to claim 15, wherein said RNA is capable of reducing an endogenous sucrose synthase gene and said fiber cells have a reduced sucrose synthase activity compared to fiber cells of plant cells which do not comprise said chimeric DNA.

Claim 19. (Withdrawn) The fiber-producing plant according to claim 18, wherein said coding region comprises a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of

a nucleotide sequence comprising at least 19 or 25 contiguous nucleotides having at least 70% sequence identity to a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID No 2 or the complement thereof; and

a nucleotide sequence comprising at least 19 or 25 contiguous nucleotides having at least 70% sequence identity to a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID No 1 or the complement thereof.

Claim 20. (Withdrawn) The fiber-producing plant according to claim 18, wherein said codign region comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID No 1 from the nucleotide at position 2208 to the nucleotide at position 2598 or the complement thereof.

Claim 21. (Currently Amended) The fiber-producing plant according to any one of claims 15, 16, or 17 ~~15 to 20~~, wherein said plant is a cotton plant.

Claim 22. (Currently Amended) Seeds of a plant according to any one of claims 15, 16, or 17 ~~15 to 20~~.

Claim 23. (Original) Seeds of a plant according to claim 21.

Claim 24. (Currently Amended) Fibers with altered development or properties, isolated from plants according to any one of claims 15, 16, or 17 ~~15 to 20~~.

Claim 25. (Original) Fibers with altered development or properties, isolated from plants according to claim 21.

Claim 26. (Currently Amended) Plants obtained through the methods of any one of claims 1, 2, or 3 ~~1 to 7~~.

Claim 27. (Original) Plants obtained through the methods of claim 8.

Claim 28. (Original) Plants obtained through the methods of claim 9.

Claim 29. (Original) Plants obtained through the methods claim 10.

Claim 30. (Currently Amended) Plants obtained through the methods of any one of claims ~~11~~ 12, 13, or 14.